

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 246082

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: GDS

SUBJ: FISHERIES - NORTH PACIFIC SALMON AND HALIBUT PROBLEMS

1. PLEASE DELIVER ASAP TO C. R. LEVELTON, FISHERIES AND MARINE SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOLLOWING MESSAGE. LEVELTON KNOWS BACKGROUND AND WILL BE EXPECTING MESSAGE. BEGIN TEXT: A DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON DECEMBER 7 AT WASHINGTON BETWEEN KUNIO YONEZAWA OF JAPAN FISHERY AGENCY AND AN OFFICIAL OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONCERNING ISSUES UNRESOLVED AT INPFC MEETING. US OFFICIAL INFORMED YONEZAWA THAT GENERAL CONCLUSIONS OF US TECHNICAL EXPERTS WERE THAT JAPANESE PROPOSALS OF DECEMBER 4 ON SALMON WOULD REDUCE INTERCEPTIONS OF MATURING BRISTOL BAY FISH BY ABOUT 24 PERCENT WHERE AS US PROPOSALS AT INPFC WOULD REDUCE INTERCEPTIONS BY ABOUT 92 PERCENT. WITH REGARD TO HALIBUT ESTIMATES WERE THAT JAPANESE PROPOSAL WOULD REDUCE INCIDENTAL CATCH BY ABOUT 21 TO 23 PERCENT, THE US CANADA PROPOSAL BY ABOUT 47 PERCENT.

US OFFICIAL THEN DESCRIBED THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE COUNTER-PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION BY JAPAN, NOTING THAT THEY MUST BE CONSIDERED UNOFFICIAL AT THIS TIME SINCE THEY HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH VARIOUS INTERESTED PERSONS AND AGENCIES:

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WITH RESPECT TO SALMON A TWO-PART PROPOSAL:

A. CLOSURE TO THE MOTHERSHIP FLEET OF THE AREA BETWEEN 175 DEGREES E AND 175 DEGREES W FROM 48 DEGREES N TO 52 DEGREES N MAY 21 THROUGH JUNE 20;

B. CLOSURE TO THE MOTHERSHIP FLEET OF THE AREA BETWEEN 175 DEGREES W AND 180 DEGREES FROM 52 DEGREES N TO 56 DEGREES N JUNE 11 THROUGH JUNE 30.

US SCIENTISTS ESTIMATED THESE TWO MEASURES WOULD REDUCE INTERCEPTION OF BRISTOL BAY FISH BY A RATE ROUGHLY MID-WAY BETWEEN THE TWO ESTIMATES OF 24 PERCENT AND 92 PERCENT (IN FACT IT IS ESTIMATED TO PRODUCE A 60 PERCENT REDUCTION). NO CHANGE WAS SUGGESTED IN THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL FOR IMMATURES.

WITH RESPECT TO HALIBUT, IN VIEW OF THE KEY NATURE OF A DECEMBER BAN ON TRAWLING AND YET RECOGNIZING THE EXTREME DIFFICULTY IN IMPOSING A CLOSURE FOR DECEMBER 1973 THE FOLLOWING WAS SUGGESTED:

A. FIRM ASSURANCES FROM THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT THAT A CLOSURE TO TRAWLING WOULD BE IMPOSED DECEMBER THROUGH MARCH 1974-75 IN AREAS A AND B SOUTH OF 55 DEGREES N, AREA E SOUTH OF 56 DEGREES N AND AREA A FROM 55 DEGREES N TO 55 DEGREES 30 MINUTES N.

B. ADDITION TO THE JAPANESE PROPOSALS FOR 1974 OF A CLOSURE OF AREA A BETWEEN 55 DEGREES N AND 55 DEGREES 30 MINUTES N.

C. IF THESE TWO PROPOSALS MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE AND IF IT WOULD HELP TO OBTAIN ACCEPTANCE, THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER DELETING THE FEBRUARY-MARCH CLOSURE IN 1974 OF AREA E SOUTH OF 56 N OR OTHER CLOSURES WHICH MIGHT APPEAR TO HAVE A RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT EFFECT.

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YONEZAWA SAID HE WOULD CABLE THE ABOVE TO TOKYO THAT DAY.
END TEXT. RUSH

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NNN

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